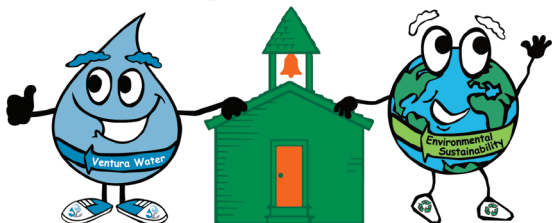


GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAM



LUNCHTIME RECYCLING GUIDE

POUR IT!

RECYCLE IT!

TRASH IT!

COMPOST IT!

STACK IT!

SHARE IT!

Learn more about
the Lunchtime
Recycling Program
and how you can help!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT GOES?

TRASH

→ LANDFILL

We send our trash to the landfill. Our trash is NOT sorted before it reaches the landfill for any materials that could be recycled or composted. Food waste or green waste in a landfill releases methane gas, which is a very strong greenhouse gas! Additionally, landfill space is limited, so it's best to reduce the amount of material that we send to our local landfill.

RECYCLE

→ GOLD COAST RECYCLING

We send our recycling to our local recycling facility, Gold Coast Recycling, where they sort materials. Materials are sold on the market and can be made into new items.

COMPOST

→ AGROMIN

We send our school's compost to Agromin, a local composting facility that turns our food scraps into soil, which allows us to grow more food.

WHY IS LUNCHTIME SORTING IMPORTANT?

Since 2013, Environmental Sustainability in partnership with E.J. Harrison has been offering recycling and composting programs within the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD). The program's mission is to educate children on how and what can be recycled or composted and the reasons behind why these practices are essential to the sustainability of our community. Each year we collect and divert over **150 tons of food waste** from the landfill, avoiding methane release while creating nutrient-rich compost material.

POUR IT!

- Liquid in the recycle bin can contaminate an entire bin of recyclables.
- Full and unopened milks and juices go on the share table.
- The bucket for liquid should have a mesh net on it to capture any straws or left-over cereal. The material in the mesh net is disposed of in the trash or compost at the end of lunch, while any liquid in the bucket is dumped down the drain in the custodian's closet.



RECYCLE IT!

- **No liquid or food!**
If a recyclable item is covered in food, it should go in the trash can!
- No straws or sporks.
- Look for the recycling triangle symbol on hard plastics #1-7 
- For containers like yogurt, Lunchables, or single serving cereal containers, **the top foil or film must be thrown in the trash** and **the hard plastic bottom can be recycled.**



TRASH IT!

- Wrappers, plastic baggies, sporks, straws, and CapriSun Pouches all go in the trash.
- "Soft or crinkly" plastic items belong in the trash.
- Food-covered containers or cartons. If there's a few bites of food in a food container that's difficult to separate (yogurt), it goes in the trash.



COMPOST IT!

- Only food material! No plastic!
- Extra food in a container (think applesauce or yogurt in a plastic cup or carrots in plastic wrap) needs to be separated. Only food goes in the compost!
- "Grabbers" are useful for getting out accidental plastic or trays that make their way into the compost bin.



STACK IT!

- Clean, stacked trays can be recycled, and it is best to stack them at the end of the sorting line.
- If they are covered in food or liquid waste, they should be placed in the trash.



SHARE IT!

- Items from the school cafeteria can be placed on a share table (if available). No items from home.
- Only place item like whole fruits or packaged items on the share table. Open items are not accepted.



TIPS FOR SORTING SUCCESS

Encourage students to line-up and sort their lunch in order.

During lunch, quiz students where different materials on their tray need to go?

Ensure lunch sorting signs are set-up where students can see them each day!

Thank you for your efforts in reducing our landfill waste and for supporting the lunchtime recycling program.

We appreciate you!

For any questions, comments, or concerns, contact Kelsey Hammond at

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CITY OF
VENTURA
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Special needs can be met by calling 805-652-4525
or through the California Relay Service.

